A8912-1

SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT August 9, 1988

(Month of July, 1988)

According to the Society of Exploration Geophysicists' latest report, the number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters decreased during the month of July. The land crew total remained the same at 158 and the marine crew total decreased by two for a net decrease of two crews to a total of 186.

The July total (186) represents a decrease of 1% from last month, a 2% increase over July, 1987, **a 18% increase over July, 1986**, a 53% decrease from July, 1985, a 65% decrease from July, 1984, a 62% decrease from July, 1983, and a decrease of 69% from the same month in 1982.

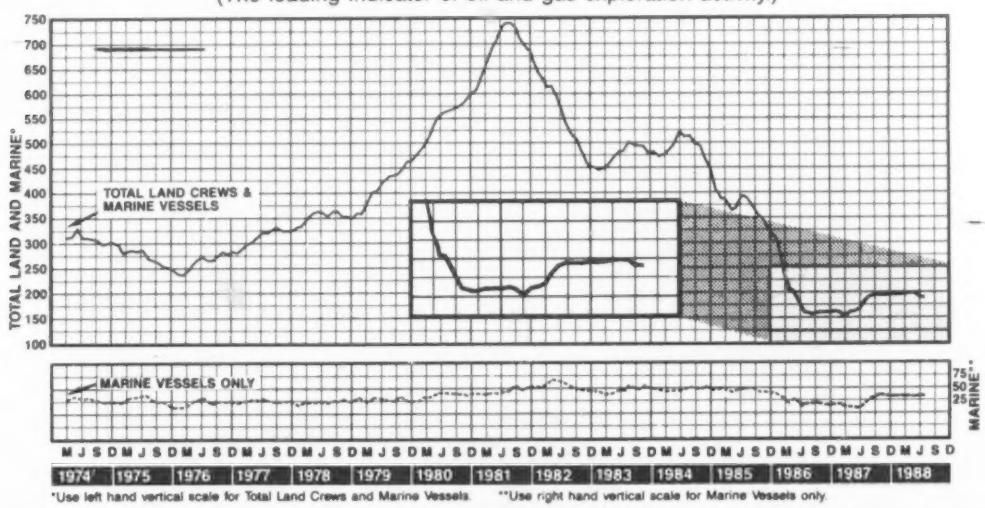
During July, four contractors were operating four of the 143 land crews and one of the twenty-three marine vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month	Last Month	July'87	July'86	July'85	July'84	July 83	July'82
	186	188	183	158	397	529	483	593

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo.	Last Mo.	July 1987	July 1986	July 1985	July 1984	July 1983	July 1982	This Mo.	Last Mo.	July 1987	July 1986	July 1985	July 1984	July 1983	July 1982
42 Contr's:	143	143	145	121	317	445	397	484	23	25	21	17	41	39	41	58
8 Oil Co's:	15	15	14	17	33	37	40	43	4	4	3	3	6	7	5	7
1 Gov't:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTALS	158	158	159	138	350	482	437	527	28	30	24	20	47	47	46	66

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)


TOTAL LAND AND MARINE*
750
700
650
600
550
500
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
TOTAL LAND CREWS & MARINE VESSELS
MARINE VESSELS ONLY
75
50
25
MARINE**
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1974' 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988

*Use left hand vertical scale for Total Land Crews and Marine Vessels. **Use right hand vertical scale for Marine Vessels only.

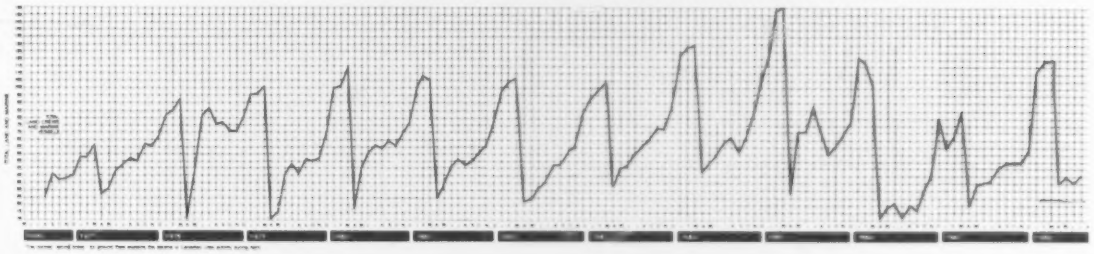
*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

July, 1988 (June figures in parentheses)

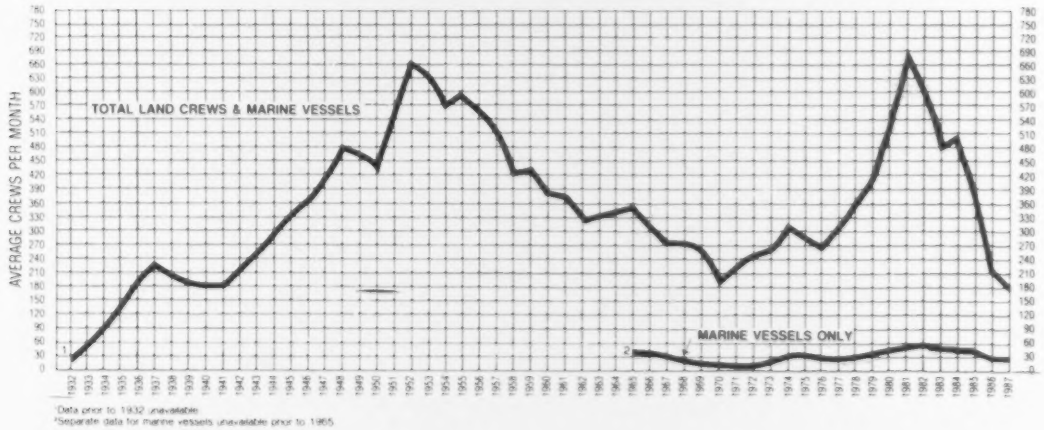
	Land Crews	Marine Crews
21 Contractors:	38 (34)	2 (0)
1 Oil Company:	2 (1)	0 (0)
Totals:	40 (35)	2 (0)

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy.

HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN THE UNITED STATES
(Seismic crews searching for oil & gas.)



[1] Data prior to 1932 unavailable
[2] Separate data for marine vessels unavailable prior to 1965